

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that our administration would be so beholden to an arms control treaty that they would want to involve other countries so it would be more difficult for us to amend that treaty down the road. That is what I feel this administration is doing, and I feel that is wrong. It is also certainly wrong without the advice and consent of the Senate. We had to remove that language from the bill because this President threatened to veto it, and the Senate would not go along with us.

The second thing we had to remove from this bill was on further discussions in Geneva relative to demarcation. Now there are not many people who understand the demarcation issue because, to be honest with you, I cannot understand it fully myself. But I can tell you what is going on.

This administration, unlike the previous 12 years of administrations dealing with Russia, has interpreted the ABM Treaty in such a way to require us to go in and negotiate systems that we have never before felt came under the terms of the ABM Treaty. This administration is right now about to give us an agreement, probably in October, that will limit our ability to fully develop our Navy upper-tier theater missile defense system. We call it dumbing-down our technology. There is no reason for it, Mr. Speaker.

The previous two administrations set a standard that this Congress, Democrats and Republicans, agreed to. It is called the demonstrated standard in terms of where the ABM Treaty applies. This administration went over to Geneva and opened up a whole new can of worms, and so we are going to negotiate an agreement with the Russians on what is or is not allowed in terms of theater missile defense systems; the bottom line being, we are going to further limit, self-limit and self-impose, limitations on our own capabilities.

It reminds me of what we did with the Patriot system. A lot of us saw the Patriot used during Desert Storm and we thought what a great system. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that system was dumbed-down? That system was originally designed to take out planes and not missiles. We had a change at the eleventh hour because of the missiles coming into Israel.

Is that what is going to happen here? Are we going to wait until something happens, and then let the President have a major national press conference and pound the table and talk about his commitment to missile defense for our troops? Are we going to wait until we have a missile land in South Korea and then say that we are working hard on this new initiative? Are we going to wait until we have a Third World nation get a capability that threatens our sovereignty and then say we are going to move ahead?

That is not what this Congress is doing. This Congress is taking steps to protect our troops and to protect our American people in spite of this admin-

istration. I just hope that as this year goes on our colleagues join with us in telling the message of truth about what is happening to our national security.

THE DEFENSE NEEDS OF OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the hour is late and I will only speak but for a few minutes, but I was in my office listening to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and was very struck by his remarks, and felt that it would be appropriate to perhaps follow along with what the gentleman from Pennsylvania has been saying. He is a fellow member of the Committee on National Security, but he is making some very important points. It was a masterful summary of the provisions of the defense conference report that we will be discussing in the House tomorrow, but, more importantly, the focus on the reality of the problems, the threats that confront us as a Nation, and the issues and how they affect our defense and national security could not have been better stated.

I want to particularly make reference to his comments in the light of the unfortunate incident of barely 2 weeks ago, the downing of TWA Flight 800. I think that we are all greatly sorry that that aircraft was downed in the manner that it was. But I have to say very honestly that I think we do know what caused the aircraft to come down, and I am very concerned that we seem to be somewhat afraid of actually stating the reason.

From all circumstances, and again I have no particular knowledge, but from all the circumstantial evidence it appears very clear that this aircraft was taken down by an act of sabotage.

Again, it has not been proven yet, but the suggestion is very strong that it was some form of an altitude detonated device that sent 230 innocent men women and children to their deaths in the Atlantic off of Long Island.

□ 2300

To the extent that that is true, I think as a Nation we need to be looking at our defense bill, not only in the context of that terrible, tragic accident, but also in the context of the prior bombing of the Dhahran barracks barely another 2 weeks prior to that, where another 19 or 20 young Americans lost their lives in Saudi Arabia, and then going back to last November in Riyadh and the attack, again, on innocent Americans, the five that were killed in that maintenance facility in Saudi Arabia.

One of the things that is becoming very clear about the previous two attacks is that they were well-planned and very sophisticated and required a

high level of training and expertise to be carried out. I am advised, for instance, that the bomb that destroyed the facility in Riyadh was timed to detonate at precisely noon, or roughly during the time of noon prayer, when any non-American personnel were likely to be at the nearby mosque for noon prayers; or that the bomb that detonated the barracks in Dhahran was actually a very sophisticated mix of military and commercial grade explosives, well over 5,000 to 10,000 pounds of explosives, again, that were structured in a highly sophisticated and detailed manner designed, in effect, and executed by professionals.

Again, we do not know yet the answer to TWA Flight 800, but it is very clear that many of the terrorist groups in the Middle East who have taken credit, small or large, for the prior attacks are also invoking their name in the context of TWA Flight 800.

To that extent, it is a serious, serious issue that I hope this Congress will demand very honest and candid answers to; because to the extent that there is a connection between these three incidents, to the extent that they document a very serious threat that is being mounted against this country, then I think that while it is appropriate that we be engaging in a discussion of what security measures are appropriate and how we might best protect ourselves as a Nation, as a group of innocent people, concerned with the danger that might be raised against innocent men and women and children, then it is also appropriate that we consider, to the extent that it is possible to do so, from whence these attacks have arisen; what is the cause, who were the perpetrators, why are innocent men and women and children and American servicemen and women being targeted in the manner they are being targeted?

I also say this with reference to my service in Desert Storm and as a veteran of that conflict. I am very much aware of the fact that 95 percent of our seaborne traffic, our military support that supported American troops in Desert Storm and Saudi Arabia, transited into the Persian Gulf through the Straits of Hormuz, past the three islands that are currently occupied by the country of Iran, islands that have been fortified with chemical weapons, islands that have been fortified with antiship and anti-air missiles, and islands the sovereignty over which has been claimed by a country that openly proclaims its intentions of driving the United States from the Middle East, driving the United States from the Persian Gulf, and in effect, asserting control over the tremendous oil resources of that region and threatening the economic lifeblood of the western and free world, including the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I have tried to raise several very important questions. I think they are very serious in the context of the prior tour de force that was conducted by the gentleman from

Pennsylvania, Mr. WELDON, relating to our defense needs and the method in which we have attempted to address them in the upcoming conference report.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2343

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina) at 11 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H.R. 3103, HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. HASTERT submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104-736)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3103), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, and agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HEALTH CARE ACCESS, PORTABILITY, AND RENEWABILITY

Subtitle A—Group Market Rules

PART I—PORTABILITY, ACCESS, AND RENEWABILITY REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 101. Through the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

"PART 7—GROUP HEALTH PLAN PORTABILITY, ACCESS, AND RENEWABILITY REQUIREMENTS

"Sec. 701. Increased portability through limitation on preexisting condition exclusions.

"Sec. 702. Prohibiting discrimination against individual participants and beneficiaries based on health status.

"Sec. 703. Guaranteed renewability in multiemployer plans and multiple employer welfare arrangements.

"Sec. 704. Preemption; State flexibility; construction.

"Sec. 705. Special rules relating to group health plans.

"Sec. 706. Definitions.

"Sec. 707. Regulations.

Sec. 102. Through the Public Health Service Act.

"TITLE XXVII—ASSURING PORTABILITY, AVAILABILITY, AND RENEWABILITY OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

"PART A—GROUP MARKET REFORMS

"SUBPART 1—PORTABILITY, ACCESS, AND RENEWABILITY REQUIREMENTS

"Sec. 2701. Increased portability through limitation on preexisting condition exclusions.

"Sec. 2702. Prohibiting discrimination against individual participants and beneficiaries based on health status.

"SUBPART 2—PROVISIONS APPLICABLE ONLY TO HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUERS

"Sec. 2711. Guaranteed availability of coverage for employers in the group market.

"Sec. 2712. Guaranteed renewability of coverage for employers in the group market.

"Sec. 2713. Disclosure of information.

"SUBPART 3—EXCLUSION OF PLANS; ENFORCEMENT; PREEMPTION

"Sec. 2721. Exclusion of certain plans.

"Sec. 2722. Enforcement.

"Sec. 2723. Preemption; State flexibility; construction.

"PART C—DEFINITIONS; MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

"Sec. 2791. Definitions.

"Sec. 2792. Regulations.

Sec. 103. Reference to implementation through the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Sec. 104. Assuring coordination.

Subtitle B—Individual Market Rules

Sec. 111. Amendment to Public Health Service Act.

"PART B—INDIVIDUAL MARKET RULES

"Sec. 2741. Guaranteed availability of individual health insurance coverage to certain individuals with prior group coverage.

"Sec. 2742. Guaranteed renewability of individual health insurance coverage.

"Sec. 2743. Certification of coverage.

"Sec. 2744. State flexibility in individual market reforms.

"Sec. 2745. Enforcement.

"Sec. 2746. Preemption.

"Sec. 2747. General exceptions.

Subtitle C—General and Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 191. Health coverage availability studies.

Sec. 192. Report on medicare reimbursement of telemedicine.

Sec. 193. Allowing Federally-qualified HMOs to offer high deductible plans.

Sec. 194. Volunteer services provided by health professionals at free clinics.

Sec. 195. Findings; severability.

TITLE II—PREVENTING HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE; ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION; MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Sec. 200. References in title.

Subtitle A—Fraud and Abuse Control Program

Sec. 201. Fraud and abuse control program.

Sec. 202. Medicare integrity program.

Sec. 203. Beneficiary incentive programs.

Sec. 204. Application of certain health anti-fraud and abuse sanctions to fraud and abuse against Federal health care programs.

Sec. 205. Guidance regarding application of health care fraud and abuse sanctions.

Subtitle B—Revisions to Current Sanctions for Fraud and Abuse

Sec. 211. Mandatory exclusion from participation in medicare and State health care programs.

Sec. 212. Establishment of minimum period of exclusion for certain individuals and entities subject to permissive exclusion from medicare and State health care programs.

Sec. 213. Permissive exclusion of individuals with ownership or control interest in sanctioned entities.

Sec. 214. Sanctions against practitioners and persons for failure to comply with statutory obligations.

Sec. 215. Intermediate sanctions for medicare health maintenance organizations.

Sec. 216. Additional exception to anti-kickback penalties for risk-sharing arrangements.

Sec. 217. Criminal penalty for fraudulent disposition of assets in order to obtain medicaid benefits.

Sec. 218. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Data Collection

Sec. 221. Establishment of the health care fraud and abuse data collection program.

Subtitle D—Civil Monetary Penalties

Sec. 231. Social security act civil monetary penalties.

Sec. 232. Penalty for false certification for home health services.

Subtitle E—Revisions to Criminal Law

Sec. 241. Definitions relating to Federal health care offense.

Sec. 242. Health care fraud.

Sec. 243. Theft or embezzlement.

Sec. 244. False Statements.

Sec. 245. Obstruction of criminal investigations of health care offenses.

Sec. 246. Laundering of monetary instruments.

Sec. 247. Injunctive relief relating to health care offenses.

Sec. 248. Authorized investigative demand procedures.

Sec. 249. Forfeitures for Federal health care offenses.

Sec. 250. Relation to ERISA authority.

Subtitle F—Administrative Simplification

Sec. 261. Purpose.

Sec. 262. Administrative simplification.

"PART C—ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION

"Sec. 1171. Definitions.

"Sec. 1172. General requirements for adoption of standards.

"Sec. 1173. Standards for information transactions and data elements.

"Sec. 1174. Timetables for adoption of standards.

"Sec. 1175. requirements.

"Sec. 1176. General penalty for failure to comply with requirements and standards.

"Sec. 1177. Wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable health information.